



GSA Great Lakes Region



The Benjamin Harrison Herald

Quarterly Newsletter

Indianapolis, Indiana

Jul.-Sept. 2011



Building News & Information

ARRA Project Wrap

The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act project to install energy-producing and water-heating panels on the roof has reached completion after 14 months of hard work. The most visible clue to the project's completion has been the removal of metal guard rails along the outer edge of the roof and the scaffolding on the east side of the building that provided roof access for the construction crews.

The Emmett J. Bean Center was originally selected in 2009 to receive the large PV system based on several key factors. First, the size of the building and flat roof was seen as ideal for supporting such a large system. Also, EJB's location offered an opportunity to have a significant effect on greenhouse gas emissions because most of the electricity used in the area is generated by coal.

In May 2009, funding for the project was secured and the request for proposal for the design portion of the project was issued. The prime contract was awarded in December 2009, with the design complete 5 months later in April 2010.

When funding was allocated to the project, the condition of the roof was unknown. Upon the start of construction in May 2010, it was determined that funds were not sufficient to replace the entire roof all at once,



Pictured: Aerial view of completed solar panels on EJB

which is why the north portion of the roof was not replaced or outfitted with PV panels.

On the southeast corner of the roof is a test section that will study the performance of four different types of solar technology in the Midwestern climate. A mini weather station has also been installed as a part of this lab in order to match the performance of the test panels with the weather conditions they were exposed to.

With the project's completion, two flat panel televisions were installed



Pictured: Solar test lab

in the main corridor of the first floor that will display energy production statistics, weather data, and also convert statistics into relatable terms, such as the number of houses that could be powered by the energy being produced or the amount of vehicle emissions being taken off the road with equivalent savings on greenhouse gasses.

On Wednesday, July 13, GSA Administrator Martha Johnson will

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HERE TO SERVE YOU

GSA Property Management Office

Phone Number 510-2169

Service Calls 510-3009

Housekeeping 510-3009

Conference Room Reservations

Phone Number 510-2169

Building Security 510-2176

In case of EMERGENCY

Phone Number 510-1111

GSA Mission Statement:

The Benjamin Harrison Herald

GSA's mission is to use expertise to provide innovative solutions for our customers in support of their missions and by so doing foster an effective, sustainable, and transparent government for the American people.

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visit EJB to host local community leaders and the media as she will share lessons learned from the project and will tour the final product. She will be joined on a panel by several experts ranging from government representatives to solar technology specialists.



Pictured: Power inverters that transform the sun's energy into electricity

GSA appreciates your patience and understanding throughout the duration of this project, as we strive to lead the way in energy technology and efficiency.

Tenant Satisfaction Survey

GSA would like to thank you for helping us reach our goal with our 2011 Tenant Satisfaction Survey. GSA began distributing surveys to tenants in May and continued the effort through the month of June. With 4,000 surveys allocated to the Bean Center and a target response rate of 73%, this meant that GSA needed almost 3,000 surveys to be completed over the course of a month and a half. While the deadline has passed for surveys to be mailed to Gallup, you can still complete unanswered surveys online through July 15th.

As of the publication of this newsletter, our unofficial figures indicate that 3,083 surveys were completed by EJB tenants, 105 of which were completed online. The total includes over 500 surveys completed during GSA's Survey Appreciation Day, held outside the C-Store on June 27th, during which building tenants exchanged completed surveys for a pedometer and free snack.

Your survey responses are greatly appreciated; as you provided helpful feedback on aspects of our building that include lighting, air quality and food service. Gallup will compile and organize the comments and ratings in the coming months, and survey results will be shared with you in an upcoming newsletter.

Thank you again for your participation in the 2011 Tenant Satisfaction Survey!

Building Energy & Conservation

GSA Recycling Update

As GSA helps the federal government move toward its goal of "greening" its buildings, one of the performance measures we closely monitor is our waste diversion rate. A building's diversion rate is calculated as the percentage of its total waste that is being recycled, reused or repurposed. In other words, this is the waste that is being kept out of local landfills and the surrounding environment.

The Emmett J. Bean Center has been closely monitoring its diversion rate over the past year. While it has an average diversion rate of nearly 45% over that time span, the rate has been as low as 32% and as high as 54%. These numbers can fluctuate month to month because of several factors such as the timing of recycled pallet pick-ups and the amount of cardboard that makes it to the recycling totes.

Another key factor in our diversion rate is the amount of paper EJB tenants shred, recycle, or throw away. Our waste auditors found that a sizeable amount of recyclable paper is being disposed of in the building's trash cans instead of being recycled. One ream of letter-size paper has 500 sheets and weighs in at roughly 5 pounds. With this information, one can figure that if each of the approximately 5,000 building employees threw away only 5 pieces of paper each day, we would be adding 250 pounds of paper to our waste stream per day, and over 2.5 tons per month. This is a perfect example of how an individual action may seem small, but combined with the efforts of others will make a big difference.

Security & Safety Matters

FSC Recap

The Facility Security Committee's most recent meeting took place on June 14th to review safety and security matters at EJB. Among items discussed during the meeting were the building's prohibited items list and a DFAS emergency communications project that is under way to increase cell phone and 2-way radio signals throughout the building.

The FSC would like to ask employees for their help in keeping EJB safe and secure with a couple reminders.

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First, any employee who receives a replacement CAC card may only possess one CAC card at a time. If an employee finds his or her original CAC card after a replacement has been issued, the original card cannot be kept and used as a backup – it must be turned in immediately to prevent misuse.

Second, please report any incidents of violence or thefts to the Building Security Office immediately after they occur. Any delay in reporting such incidents will negatively impact an officer's ability to investigate, solve, and further prevent similar issues at EJB.

The FSC meets on a semi-annual basis. For more information on topics discussed by the FSC, please contact your agency representative.

Did You Know?

Summer Safety Tips & Fun Facts

Summer has officially begun as June has come to an end. It's this time every year that we have all geared up for barbecues, festivals and camping trips. Whether you will be attending a parade, grilling in your backyard or enjoying a bike ride on the Monon Trail, here are a few safety tips and fun facts to share with your friends this summer.

Safety Tips

- Be sure to check gas grills for leaks and cobwebs before they are used. Grills of any kind should only be lit by responsible adults.
- Staying hydrated is important, no matter what you do this summer. Be sure to save some space in your cooler for water, especially if you plan on being outside in the heat for an extended period of time.
- With Indiana's unpredictable and sometimes severe summer weather patterns, don't underestimate the importance of checking the forecast while planning outdoor activities.
- Knowing the difference between "water-resistant" and "waterproof" sunscreen will save your skin. While a "water-resistant" sunscreen maintains its SPF (Sun Protection Factor) rating after 40 minutes of water exposure, a "waterproof" sunscreen will continue to hold its SPF rating after 80 minutes of water exposure.

Summer Fun Facts

- The average American eats almost 5.5 gallons of ice cream per year. July is National Ice Cream Month because it's the month when the most ice cream is sold.
- Watermelon is not a fruit! It is a vegetable most closely related to cucumbers, pumpkins and squash.

- By counting the number of chirps a cricket makes over a 15-second span and adding 37, you can determine the outdoor air temperature. Give it a try this summer and compare your results to your household thermometer or newscast reading.
- The Popsicle was accidentally invented in 1905 by a boy who left his drink and stirring stick outside overnight. When he found his drink frozen to the stick the next morning, the Popsicle was born.

Bean Building Projects

DFAS Communications Improvements

Over the past few weeks, you may have noticed contractors running hundreds of feet of wire and cable above the ceiling tiles in the hallways. This is all part of a DFAS emergency communications project aimed at improving communications for first responders during building emergencies. Slated to run from June through September, this project is increasing the quality of cell phone reception up to 3G depending on your location. Signals for hand-held 2-way radios will also be amplified throughout the building, with the basement being an area of special focus.

Please continue to show patience while the project crew continues its work throughout the building, as this will be a great benefit to us all.

Completed Projects

- Hard surface countertops were installed within each second floor break area
- The East Courtyard landscaping was revamped

Upcoming Projects

- The stairwells throughout the building are to be refinished and upgraded with additional life safety items
- Restroom mirrors and faucets are scheduled for repair
- The West Courtyard landscaping is scheduled to be revamped

Mark Your Calendar!

Independence Day - July 4
(Building Closed)

Labor Day - September 5
(Building Closed)